

CLIFTON CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Design Principles (P) and Guidelines (G)

Land Use And Patterns

- CL1(P)** The *Clifton Neighborhood Plan* (current version), which stipulates the preferred zoning mix within the district (reflecting historical land patterns and usage), should be respected
- CL2(P)** Public open space and gathering places are essential features of the compact and densely settled district because they provide planned or unplanned opportunities to meet, visit, and recreate with neighbors and friends. Existing public open space and gathering places should be maintained and new areas created that are small in scale, informal in character, and of a design that sensitively incorporates historic components such as circulation patterns, vegetation, views and vistas, and site furnishings to preserve the integrity of the historic landscape and historic structures within the district.
- CL3(P)** Although most of the district is a densely settled area characteristic of an urban environment, areas and attributes of the district remain that are distinctly rural or natural in character, including the wooded areas on the south side of the district and the prevalence of barns and other rural outbuildings in rear lots. These areas or attributes of a rural or natural feeling should be preserved and maintained.

Views and Vistas

- CL4(G)** Key views and vistas within the district, and views identified as significant to the district from outside the boundaries, should be preserved. These views include both pedestrian- and vehicular-oriented vantage points. Key views include, but are not limited to, the following:
- 1) Views into and from Bingham Park, an Olmsted-designed landscape.
 - 2) Views into the campus of the Kentucky School for the Blind.
 - 3) Views into the swale and green space next to Sacred Heart Village on Payne St.
 - 4) Views from all directions, including from below and from above, into the green space and steep slopes along Brownsboro Rd. from State St. to N. Ewing Ave., the west side of N. Ewing Ave., Bickel Rd., and the area south of Payne St. overlooking I-64 from S. Ewing Ave. to Quarry St.
 - 5) Views of the earth berms along Payne St. and views of downtown Louisville from Payne St.
 - 6) Views into or from the quarry walls at the former Henry Bickel quarry.
 - 7) Views along and into the Frankfort Ave. corridor, where one- to two-story buildings predominate.
 - 8) Views along the rail line, including views into downtown Louisville.
 - 9) Views into the district from adjacent transportation corridors, where one- to two-story buildings and tree canopies predominate.
 - 10) Views into or from the Stevenson Ave. and Clifton Park area into downtown Louisville.
 - 11) Views into or along the Sycamore Ave. swale (the "dip").

Circulation

- CL5(G)** The integrity of character of original historic surface street arteries within and bordering Clifton—Frankfort Ave., Payne St., and Brownsboro Rd.—should be maintained and preserved. In particular, Frankfort Ave. should remain the primary west-east conduit within the district providing access for a commercial, institutional, and residential mix of facilities. It should also remain as a two-lane road, with one lane in each direction plus spaces for 24-hr. parking on each side. Payne St. should remain a primary west-east conduit within the district that is residential in character.
- CL6(G)** The existing grid of streets, alleys, and highways into, within, bordering, and serving as the boundaries of the district should be maintained in its current configuration of street widths, lanes, and alignments. One-way streets are discouraged.
- CL7(P)** Pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation access to goods, services, and residences, an historic feature of the district, should be retained and enhanced along all surface streets in the district.
- CL8(G)** A special consideration in this district is the population of visually impaired residents—one of the largest in the U.S.—attributable to the educational and work institutions for the blind whose presence in the district dates to the mid 1800s. Safe and convenient pedestrian access for these residents while in route to work, home, school, worship, shopping, and recreation is paramount. Considerations include access to sidewalks that are unobstructed and in good repair, preservation of waypoints that provide tactile or physical guides to the location of visually impaired pedestrians, safe crossings of streets, minimal size and numbers of curb cuts for parking lots and driveways, and unimpeded access to and within structures.
- CL9(G)** Parking areas throughout the district should be small in scale, informal in character, and of a design that sensitively incorporates historic components such as circulation patterns, vegetation, views and vistas, and site furnishings to preserve the integrity of the historic landscape and historic structures within the district. To minimize the need to provide space for retention basins, which can adversely affect historic properties, the use of water-permeable paving materials that reduce runoff (e.g., paver tiles, compacted gravel surface paving materials) is desirable. All paving materials and

associated parking area components should be selected to relate to the surrounding landscape.

- CL10(G)** Structured parking, in lieu of large surface lots, should be limited in the number of decks and of a design and construction in keeping with the historic components of the district.
- CL11(G)** “Tear downs” of contributing structures to the district for the purpose of providing new residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional parking lots or parking garages should be prohibited.
- CL12(G)** Parking should be provided in rear lots to the extent possible.

Topography

- CL13(G)** Steep slopes and cliffs, both natural and human made, should be retained, protected, and preserved, including their shape, slope, elevation, aspect, and contour.
- CL14(G)** Karst and sinkhole features should be retained, protected, and preserved, including their shape and contour.
- CL15(G)** Swales and natural drainage areas should be retained, protected, and preserved, including their shape, flow patterns, slope, elevation, aspect, and contour.

Small-Scale Features

- CL16(G)** The removal of existing billboards is encouraged.
- CL17(G)** Contributing human-made features, including, but not limited to, brick streets, alleys, and sidewalks, limestone or granite curbs, iron fences, stone walls, horse-watering trough, hitching post, and the “Chicken Steps,” should be maintained, protected, and preserved.
- CL18(G)** Historic nomenclature for streets, places, and areas should be maintained (e.g., Payne St., Angora Court) and new nomenclature selected to reflect historic usage or features (e.g., Franklin School Apartments).

Vegetation

- CL19(G)** New landscape elements should be designed to relate to the historic character-defining elements of the district.
- CL20(G)** Mature native hardwood trees, such as those on the campus of the Kentucky School for the Blind, should be retained, protected, and preserved.

- CL21**(G) Wooded areas should be retained, protected, and preserved.
- CL22**(G) Proposed changes to vegetation and landscaping in Bingham Park should be coordinated between Louisville Metro Parks Department, the Landmarks Commission, and the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy.
- CL23**(G) Greenery in the Vernon Ave. right of way (the “Chicken Steps”) should be retained, protected, and preserved.
- CL24**(G) The *Clifton Neighborhood Plan* (current version) list of major projects includes a green space inventory. This inventory, which will identify plant species native to the district, should be consulted when planning and planting new or replacement landscaping.